

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Paul Binette convened the Board at 7:00PM on the above date with the following present: William Campbell, Lionel Ingram, Joseph Pace and Robert Eastman. Town Manager George Olson was absent.

2. Minutes of Selectmen's meeting of June 16, 2003.

*Mr. Pace moved to waive the reading of the minutes and to accept them as submitted; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.*

3. Bid awards:

**Gasoline & Diesel:** Based upon a recommendation of Public Works, the bid should be awarded to Burke Oil for .8895 per gallon for diesel and .9765 per gallon for gasoline. The prices are fixed for two years. *Mr. Ingram moved to accept the bid award as recommended; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.*

**Simpson Pit Excavation:** The recommendation is to award the bid to Earthmovers of Raymond NH, the low bidder, for \$81,880. The bid includes a rough grade of the DPW parking lot for \$7440. *Mr. Campbell moved to accept the bid as recommended; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.*

4. Request for water and sewer adjustment – George S. Field.

Once Mr. Field arrived, he was invited to the microphone to explain his situation. He was denied an abatement by the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee based upon #2 of the Policy on Adjustments [“The resident, due to infirmity, was not aware of the leak”]. Mr. Field explained he had submitted a letter requesting an abatement for his unknown large usage but heard nothing for six months. When he resubmitted a letter, he was denied the abatement. The leak was between the meter and his house and the water went into the ground prior to entering the house. Once this was determined, only after the Clerk sent an employee out to investigate, Mr. Field had the problem fixed. Since that time, usage is back to normal. Prior to this incident, the meter did not change for 9 months and he paid those minimum invoices: once the meter was repaired, there was a large jump in the invoice to recoup the minimum payments. He reminded the Board the large bill also includes charges for sewer, plus interest, even though the water never reached the home.

Mr. Pace asked for clarification of the word “infirmity” to which Mr. Noyes responded someone hard of hearing or blind who does not know water is running and the situation is confronted. Mr. Pace noted, though Mr. Field is neither, it would be hard to hear water running four feet under ground.

After much discussion, *Mr. Ingram moved to have the Water/Sewer Clerk use the 4/20/02 data as a baseline to reduce the charges from the 7/02/02 data, for both water and sewer, and award an abatement; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.* It was noted this should not set a precedent and that incidents will all be discussed separately, understanding that the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee continues to make the decisions. They understood the policy but felt this was an unusual situation.

5. Second reading to make Pleasant Street one-way.

As the second of three readings, discussion continued about the direction and whether to continue as a street.

Mr. Eastman feels the direction, from String Bridge to Chestnut, would cause problems with the left hand turn onto Chestnut Street, with it being close to a 135 degree turn. It was noted the proposed direction would cut down on speed of those coming from High Street on Pleasant Street and under the Library to cut off the stop sign and merge at Chestnut Street/String Bridge.

Hope Godino, Library Director, expressed concern over safety of patrons coming from the Library and, with the darkness of the overhang, drivers cannot see them as the cars enter from the light.

Mr. Campbell thought it shouldn't even be a road but agreed with Mr. Eastman that the turn is bad. Mr. Eastman suggested abandoning the road, making it a larger lot and more green space with one entrance from String Bridge. Ms. Godino thought the issue was recommended by the Fire Department and access to the building, but she would welcome the abandonment.

Arthur Baillargeon, Tremont Street, has noted no one speeding through there since the roads have opened up. He suggested that the left hand turn onto Chestnut Street would be difficult, particularly during the winter months with the snow banks. He suggested speed bumps at each entrance. He also suggested monitoring the situation before any decision is made. Mr. Ingram noted he was one of the patrons that almost got hit when he was exiting the building.

Consensus: Mr. Pace believes the staff when they note there are problems with speeding and safety for the patrons. He suggested we review the safety aspect and check with the Fire Department about closing off the road.

Mr. Binette will check with the Police and Fire Chiefs concerning the issue.

6. Second and final reading of Selectmen's Policy 03-33 on mailboxes receiving plow damage.

Mr. Noyes provided an updated sketch of the referenced dimensions (attached) and they have been approved by U.S.P.S. He noted the only repair in the Town's rights-of-way would be to mailboxes, not stone walls, etc., as the public encroaches toward the roadway.

Per the Board, changes made include: add "positioned" following "...rights-of-way must be.." in the first line of #1. They also increased the dollar amount paid to residents, from \$35 to \$50, to include the cost of estimated labor. It was questioned whether the change to \$50 constitutes enough of a change to make it the first reading. Mr. Binette stated no.

Mr. Binette asked Mr. Noyes if the plow drivers would pull back now in order to avoid damage to mailboxes. Mr. Noyes noted this change limits our liability only; snow fighting takes the snow to the edge of the pavement, following a storm the snow is then pushed into the 2-foot zone and they are more careful.

***Mr. Ingram moved to adopt Police 03-33 changing the dollar amount to \$50 and the addition of "positioned" and to accept this as the final reading; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.*** It was noted this payment is for replacement; judgment is to be used for damages.

7. Second and final reading on new School Impact Fee.

The fees (list attached) will be added to the Town's fee schedule. *Mr. Eastman moved to adopt the School Impact Fees as presented; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.*

8. First reading of change to parking on Garfield Street.

Chairman Binette read the proposed changes to the Town's parking ordinances (103.2) to include 2-hour parking-school hours on both sides of Garfield Street.

Kathleen Marty, Garfield Street, appreciated the action of the board and hoped it moved forward and is in the place before school starts. The second reading will be July 21<sup>st</sup>, the third will be in August.

9. First reading of change to parking on Grove Street, Grove Court and Hilliard Circle.

Chairman Binette read the proposed additions to the Town's parking ordinance (also 103.2) to include 2-hour parking limit – school hours on Grove Court (entire area from Grove Street), Grove Street (both sides of street from Grove Court to Elliott Street) and Hilliard Circle (entire area from Grove Street). It was noted the author of the letter, Mr. Dana Barbin, was unable to attend this evening's meeting but will be in attendance at the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

10. Request to place signs in the right-of-way – Little Pine Lane.

Chairman Binette read a letter to Mr. Olson from Mrs. Christine Kramer concerning the posting of signs in their neighborhood, in the Town's right-of-way, concerning 'policing dogs, leash/curb/clean-up'. Mrs. Kramer was not in attendance. Chairman Binette requested Mrs. Blenk to contact Mrs. Kramer for attendance at the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. It was also requested she bring one of the signs purchased for review.

11. Bow Street parking lot – conversion of tree island to parking.

Chairman Binette noted Mr. Campbell had requested this item on the agenda as the island was being considered for demolition and the addition of 4-parking spaces. The tree was lost last year and, with the need for long-term parking in the area (last year's parking study results) and some pressure from down-town merchants, Mr. Olson had recommended the island be removed and spaces be put in.

Mr. Campbell expressed concern over more pavement vs. green space/shade in the lot. He did not know whether the lot was currently under Planning Board regulations regarding green space standards in lots but felt the island should remain and another tree placed there. Mr. Eastman noted the lot does not meet standards.

Chairman Binette stated he and Mr. Olson had viewed the area, noting the close proximity of the Town House Common to the lot and the green space. He noted parking is at a premium in the downtown area and four more spaces could be used by shop owners to free up spaces on the street. He also stated it would be easier for the crew to plow, with a straight shot across the lot, rather than working around the curbing.

**Mr. Campbell moved to keep the island and request a tree be planted there; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.** Mr. Eastman asked if the tree could come from Conservation. It was noted the Town has a Town forest.

12. Permits:

- Senator Sununu's office requested use of the Wheelwright Room to meet with constituents on July 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-3:30PM. They requested fees be waived. **Mr. Pace moved to approve and waive the fees; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Squamscott Disabled American Veterans requested permission to hold their annual "Forget Me Not" drive on Town sidewalks on August 22 and 23. **Mr. Eastman moved to approve; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.**

13. Town Manager's Items: (Chairman Binette read the following)

- Reminder of Vision Appraisal's interior and exterior property inspections now through August, to verify improvements and exterior measurements.
- The Town's offices are closed Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Rubbish and recycling collections are on schedule EXCEPT for Friday's, which will be collected Saturday.
- Band Concerts begin this evening at 7:30PM at the Bandstand. They continue each Monday through July 29<sup>th</sup>; in case of rain, the schedule will be extended into August.
- Boulder Brook, Brentwood, agreement with the Town of Brentwood is before the Board, again, for a revision to that agreement signed on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. (Brentwood had not agreed to the language of the previous agreement). All attorneys involved have approved the language which now includes the following under #6: "The parties acknowledge that RSA 507-B:2-b **Snow, Ice and other Weather Hazards**, imposes no liability on a municipality absent gross negligence or reckless disregard of the hazard." **Mr. Campbell moved to accept the additional wording and for the board to sign the agreement; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**

14. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

Mr. Pace: None

Mr. Ingram: Forrest Griffin, representative, received an honor at the Rockingham Planning Annual Meeting, for his contribution to the Commission; Safety Committee is reviewing a procedure on how employees are to deal with dead animals; Council on Aging needs one member. The members also don't agree with the proposed plans for the downtown area and do not wish to see the Bandstand moved.

Mr. Eastman: Planning Board representatives met with Mr. Mayberry concerning the impact fees last Thursday. He thanked the Exeter Country Club for inviting members of the USS Annapolis to their New Member golf tournament and outing last Friday.

Mr. Campbell: Tuesday the Historic Downtown committee took a field trip to Newburyport and Amesbury, acquiring some nice ideas.

Mr. Binette: None.

15. Public Comments:

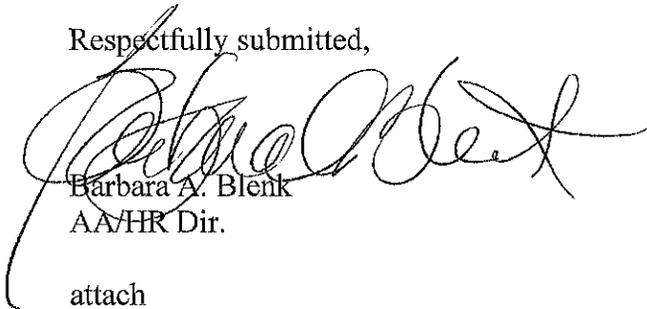
Michael Lambert, Locust Avenue, questioned whether the Board has had discussions concerning the sale of water to outside areas, particularly Hampton (Aquarian – private vendor). He noted some articles, of late, with Victoria Del Greco stating the Town was to inquire of the State on expanding services. He stated with the increased fees and the new water treatment plant, it would seem reasonable to seek outside revenues. He expressed concern over dealing with Aquarian, as they appear willing to take over municipal water systems and they have had incidents with private labs whereby reporting of conditions was not initially made to the public (Example of E.coli issue in Hampton). He would hope the Water/Sewer Advisory Commission and the Board would be upfront with the residents when any discussions for extending outside service might be happening.

Mr. Binette noted any discussions have been in an infancy stage and no serious discussions have been made. There may have been phone calls made but nothing has been presented to the Town Manager or Selectmen. Mr. Campbell noted the Conservation Commission is also concerned.

Mr. Lambert stated people forget and, with the approval of the plant, rates increased. He is concerned over any issues dealing with growth, as it raises all community costs.

***Mr. Ingram moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 8:40PM.***

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Blenk  
AA/HR Dir.

attach